



January 5, 2025
Second Week after Christmas
Epiphany
Order of Service – 10:00 am

Words of Welcome

“It is the mission of the Community Reformed Church of Colonie to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all of our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

We are a community bound together and energized by faith, love, and commitment to Jesus Christ. And even though you may not yet share that faith, love, and commitment, you are most welcome to be with us, to belong here, to experience what we’re about. Then, if you are attracted and persuaded by what you see and hear, we hope you’ll want to set down roots here long-term. And even if you don’t, you’ll always be a friend.

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you
and thanks you for worshipping with us.

FOR CONTEMPLATION*

“We are a blessing because we belong to God. When blessedness is our beginning, we begin to see the world - and others - through the eyes of a God who says: ‘You are precious in my sight.’”

Rev. Lisa Gwynn Garrity

Today we are celebrating Communion. If you wish to receive gluten free bread, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders before the service. In the celebration of Communion, all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to the Table. Please hold the elements until all have received them so that we may commune together.

Please join in the worship liturgy by reading the sections in ***bold italics***.
* - Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE “The First Noel”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRAYER SHAWL

We have a prayer shawl out this morning for Donna Davidson's sister's daughter-in-law. We're asking everyone to come forward after worship to lay hands on the shawl and offer prayers for her.

THE ELDER’S PRAYER ~ Linda

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT “God is Here Today”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

While darkness covers the earth and deep darkness veils the people, the Lord shall rise over us and we will see the glory of God.

Lift up your eyes, look all around and see how people are coming out of the shadow and into the light of God.

They see and become radiant as their heart swells with joy and hope.

From near and far the people are gathering to receive God's gift of blessing. They are on a journey to discover something new and meaningful.

We also have come from our homes and our life involvements to learn from God and receive the blessed gift God has revealed to us.

Let us experience the fullness of God's peace, hope, joy and love.

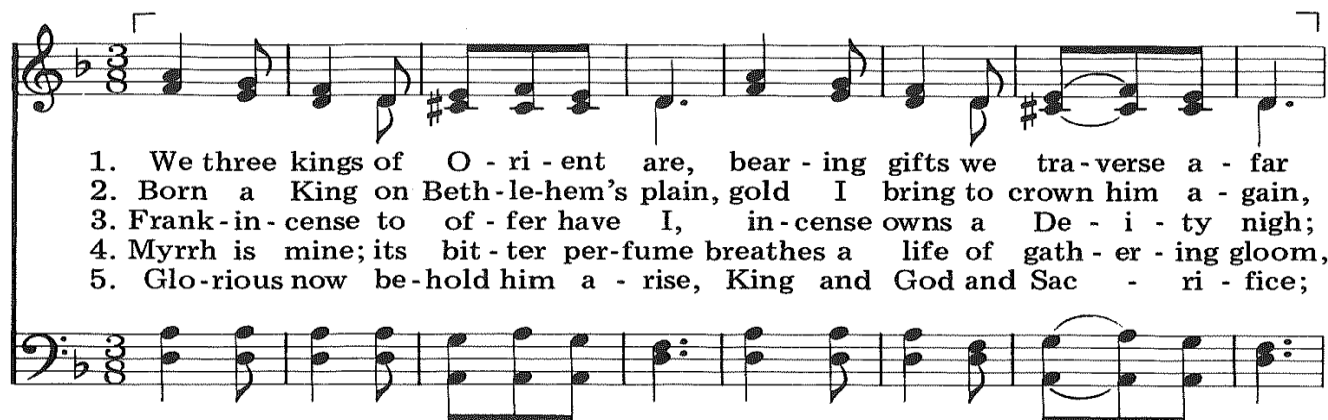
Let us worship God and offer our praise and devotion.



* HYMN 185 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

185 We Three Kings of Orient Are

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem . . . Magi from the east came . . . Mt. 2:1

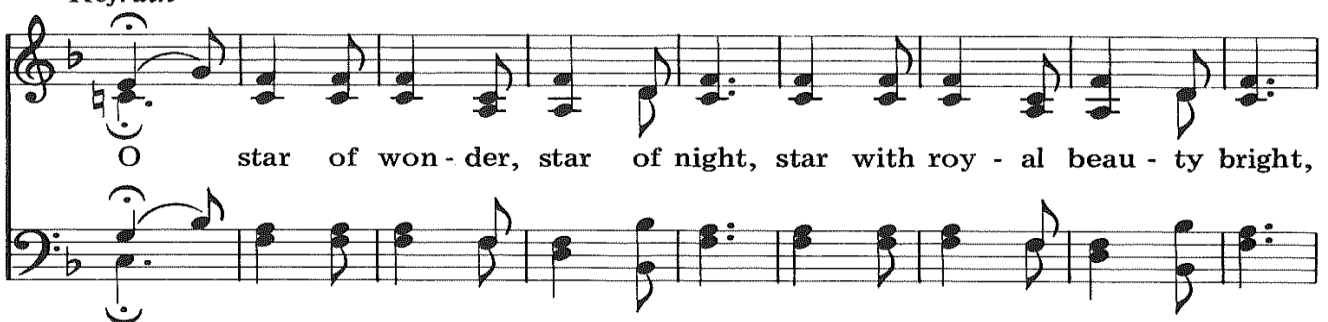


1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom,
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

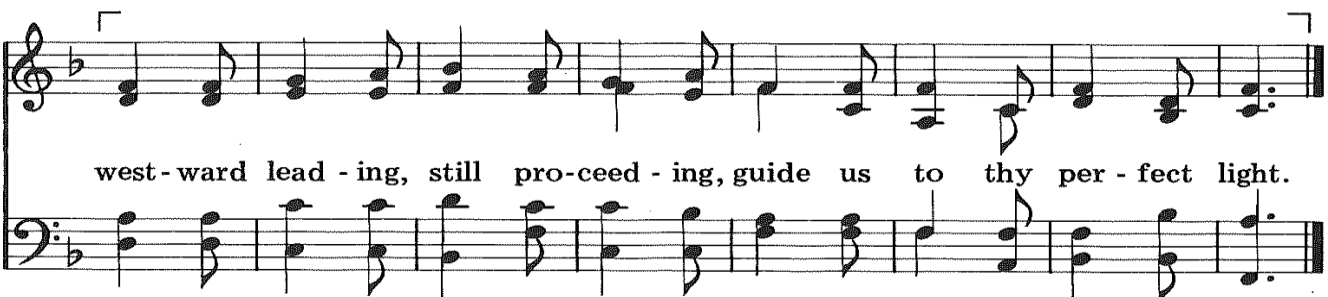


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds thro' the earth and skies.

Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.4.4.6.Ref.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in a with-us God, a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys, holding our hand through all the ups and downs.

And in the chaos of our journey, we believe that God sees what we cannot see: a path home by another way.

Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God, we set out on our way. We look for God's fingerprints in the world. We trust that there are paths still unexplored, paths that God has only begun to invite us down. And like the Magi, we dare to follow. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "With You, O Lord" (3 times)

*With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness,
And in your light we shall see true light.
With you, O Lord, is life in all its fullness,
And in your light we shall see true light.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path simply because we've always done it. Sometimes this is holy and humble because of old meanings, but there are other times when we need to venture out on a new path. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel in your direction. Amen.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Do Not, O Lord, Withhold Your Mercy" (3 times)

*Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy.
Grant us grace, grant us hope,
Grant us strength, grant us peace.
Let your steadfast love keep us safe forever.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Fellow travelers. No matter the roads you have taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside God's love.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ~ Sarah Huiest

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD ~ Jessica Kaercher

ANTHEM "As with Gladness Men of Od"

SHARING OF STAR WORDS

DISTRIBUTION OF THE STAR WORDS

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

THE MORNING MESSAGE: "The Road Isn't Always Straight"



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper **Christmas Communion**

THE CALL TO COMMUNION

We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.

The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one, as we share him together.

This is something we do eagerly.

Christ welcomes us here.

This is something we do seriously.

For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."

*** A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION OF FAITH**

"What Child is This?" GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing,

The first system of musical notation for the song "What Child is This?". It features a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.

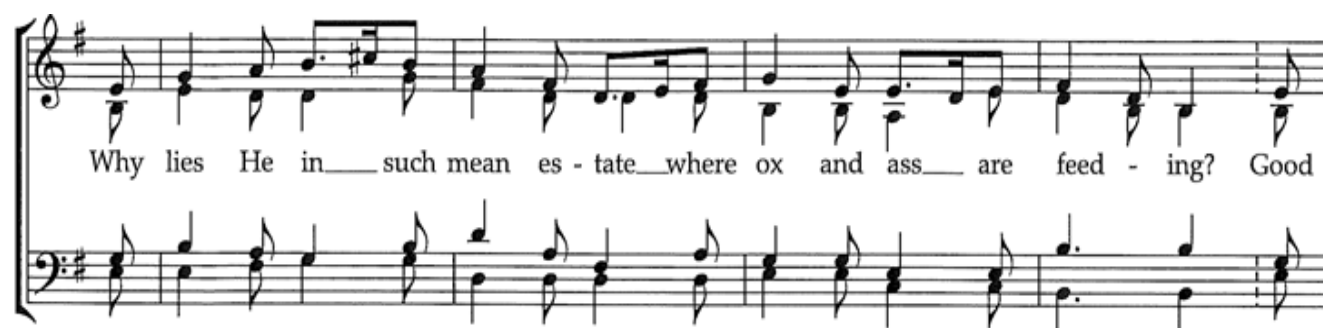
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

The third system of musical notation, concluding the phrase. The melody and accompaniment continue, with the lyrics ending below the treble staff.

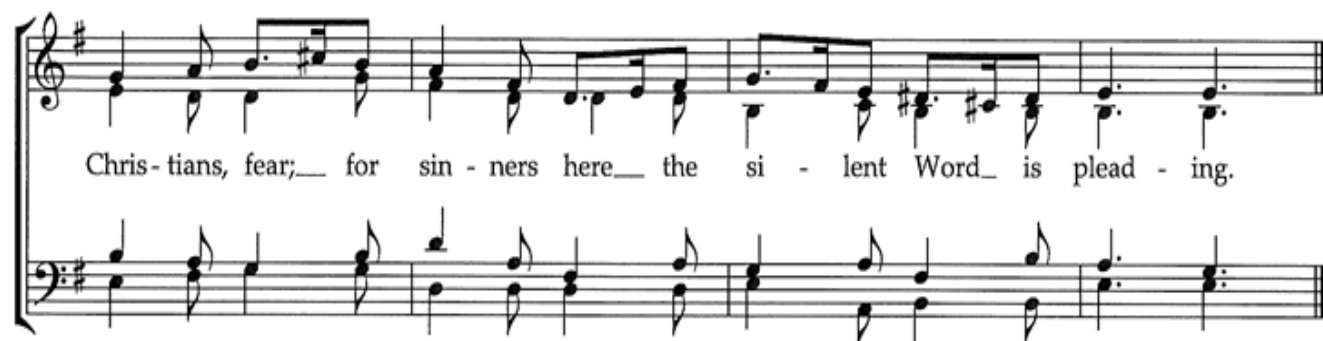


haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

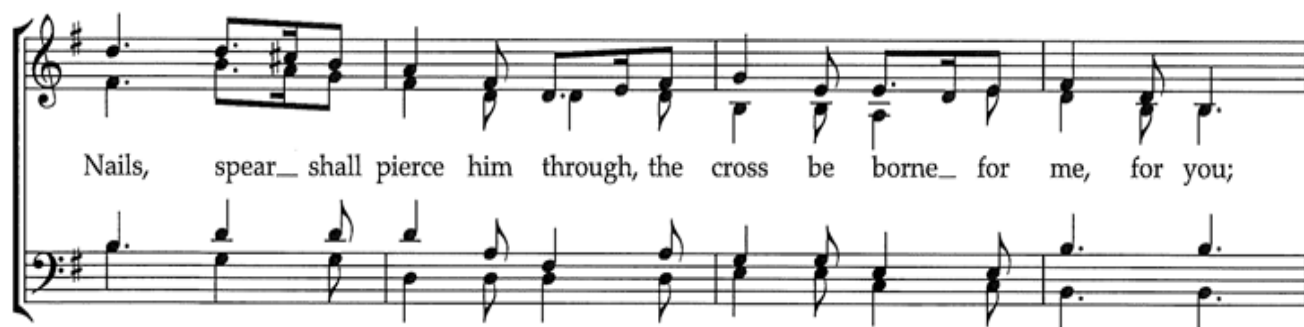


Why lies He in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing? Good



Chris - tians, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.

Not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.



Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;

hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

All this He has done that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

This is most certainly true.

* PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts since as members of one body you were called to peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

* A HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"



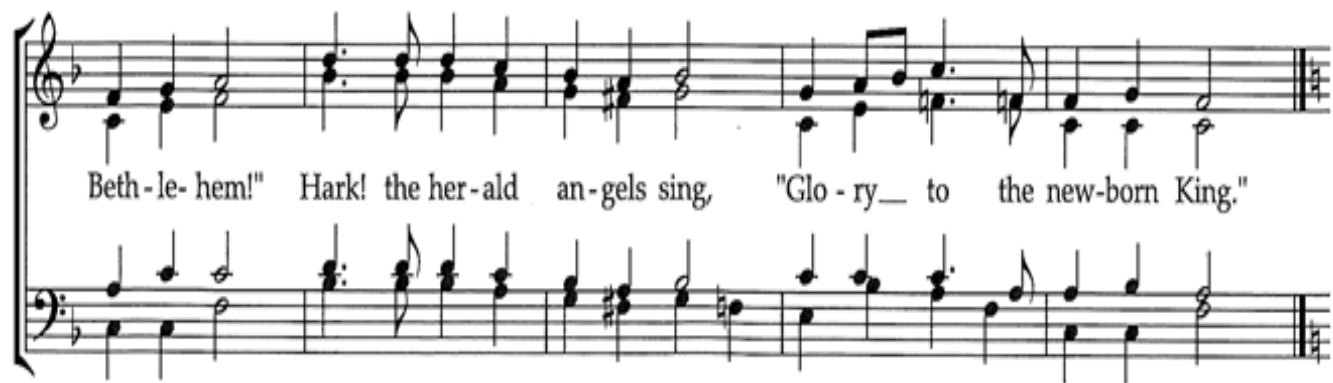
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, - "Glo - ry to the new-born King: peace on earth, and



mer - cy mild, - God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, -



join the tri - umph of the skies: - with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in



Beth - le - hem!" Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new-born King."

THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

The Holy Supper which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope: we remember with joy the grace by which God created all things and made us in God's own image.

We rejoice that God called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations.

Yet we rebelled against God's will.

In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break the covenant.

In the fullness of time, God sent God's only Son to save us.

Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the favored one, Mary, sharing our life, Christ reconciled us to God's love.

At the Jordan, God's Spirit descended upon Him, anointing Him to preach the good news of God's reign.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of God's compassion.

He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of God's grace.

We beheld His glory.

On the night before He died for us, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup with His disciples.

After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by His followers and beaten.

He stood trial and was put to death on a cross.

Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, He was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth.

Through him God bestows the gift of the Spirit, uniting the church, empowering its mission and leading us into the new creation God has promised.

By His death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit who unites us all in one body. We therefore receive this Supper in true and unconditional love.

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS “Angels We Have Heard On High”

GLORIA

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Angels We Have Heard On High". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next two lines.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all praise be giv'n!
Bles - sed is the King who came, bring - ing love and light di - vine!

All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!
Bles - sed is the King who comes in the word, the bread, the wine!

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

COMMUNION

THE PROMISE “Lord, Now in Your Mercy”

Lord, now in your mer - cy your ser - vants re - lease as your word as pro - mised, oh grant us your
A light to the gen - tiles, by whom they now see the glo - ry of Is - rael, the pro mised one

peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and mer - cy be -
He who lives now and ev - er, the hea - ven's bright

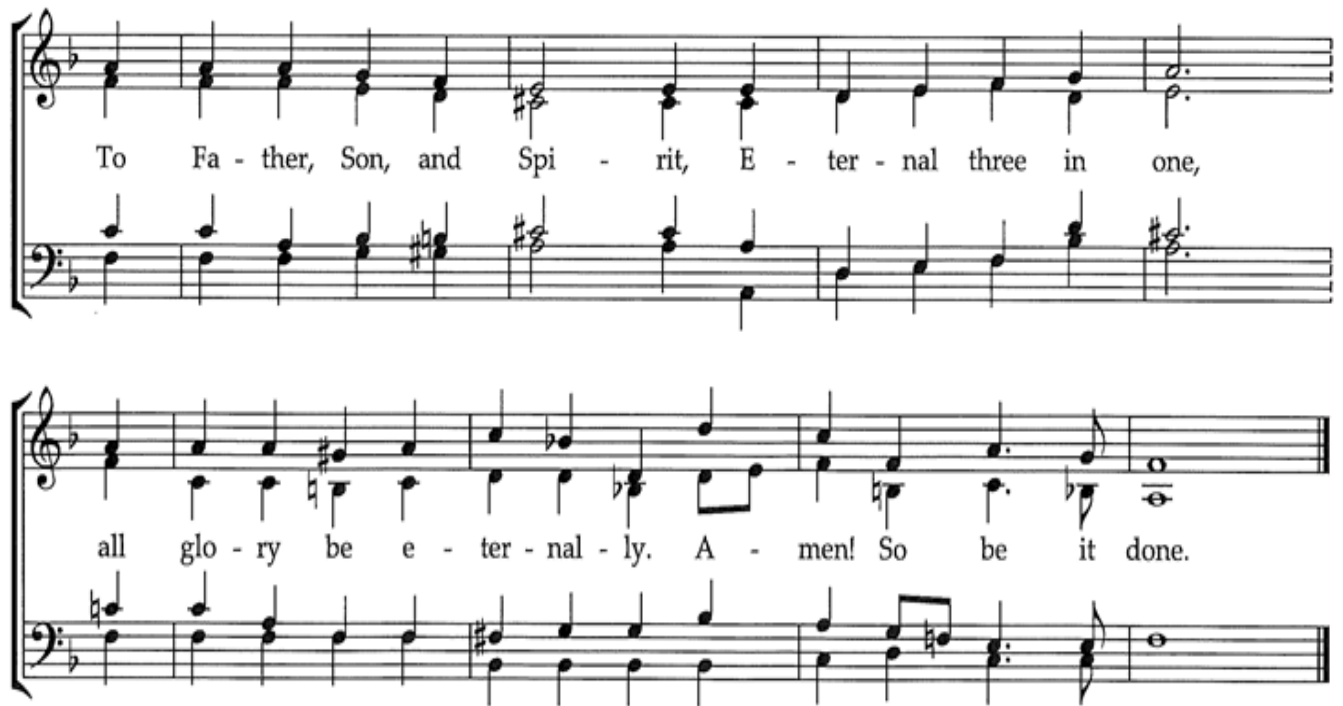
hold, pre - pared for the na - tions, as pro - phets fore - told.
sun, with Fa - ther and Spi - rit e - ter - nal - ly one.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE PARTING BLESSING

The Lord now bless and keep you all and make God's face to shine;

Lift up God's face with shin - ing grace and grant you_ peace div - ine.



* BENEDICTION

* THE IRISH BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
May the God who loves us all
Hold you in the palm of His hand.*

POSTLUDE "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

All of the liturgical resources for our Advent and Christmas worship theme, "Words for the Beginning" are used with permission from "A Sanctified Art LLC" and have been adapted from those prepared by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

Star of Bethlehem

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 2:1-12

Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas

WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Leader
Rev. Robert Hoffman

Director of Music Ministries
Ben April

Elder of the Day
Ana Crosbourn

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Liturgist
Karl Coté

Welcome Host
Pam Fitzpatrick

Children's Message
Sarah Huiest

Coffee Hour Host
Kyrra Howard

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The First Noel

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God is Here Today

Words & Music: Traditional Mexican,
translated/arranged by C. Michael Hawn,
harmonized by Gary Alan Smith
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With You, O Lord

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier
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As with Gladness Men of Old

Music: Conrad Kocher, arr. Victor Labenske
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Do Not, O Lord, Withhold Your Mercy

Words & Music: Bruce Cornwell & Benjamin
April © 2023 Bruce Cornwell & Benjamin April

This is the Threefold Truth

Words: Fred Pratt Green
Music: Jack Schrader
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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

(Fantasy on "Kingsfold")
Music: Traditional, arr. John Carter
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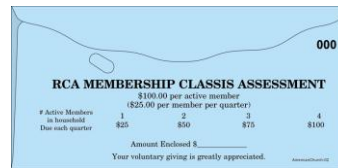
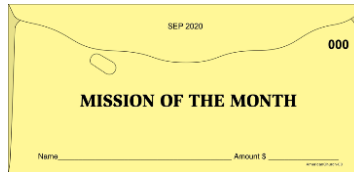
Website:

www.communityreformedchurch.com

Mailing Address:

Community Reformed Church of Colonie
701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

January Special Offering Envelopes –



In-Person Worship Guidelines - Even though you may be vaccinated, mask wearing continues to be encouraged to protect our vulnerable and medically compromised worshippers. We ask you to respect the distance and comfort levels of others. Reminder: If you are feeling under the weather, please remain home and participate in worship via Zoom

ZOOM

To join in Devotions, The Wired Word and Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6880887155>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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Elders

Karl Coté, VP
Ana Crosbourne
Linda Murphy
Melody York

Deacons

Kevin Bottini
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Jessica Kaercher



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

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crccsandy@gmail.com
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com



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